missing...

Manitoba: 01958-02024

https://www.services.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/missing-disparus/

BACKGROUND

Following the first of my missing... series, which focussed on Saskatchewan's missing as listed on the RCMP's "Canada's Missing" site, I decided for the second report to look into Saskatchewan's eastern neighbour, Manitoba.

Despite the football & hockey rivalries between the two, Manitoba & Saskatchewan are alike in many ways. Geographically, a major difference between the two is the amount & nature of water area. While Saskatchewan's Prairie flatlands comprise a large minority of the province's land area, Manitoba's is proportionately much smaller, only comprising its southwestern corner. Plus, while Saskatchewan's lake region is characterised by thousands of smaller lakes far to the north, most of which are inaccessible except by floatplane or dogsled, Manitoba's waters are largely contained in three very large lakes: the mighty Lake Winnipeg, the jagged Lake Winnipegosis, & the rotund Lake Manitoba. To the north of these, the Canadian Shield formation of manifold remote lakes that characterises northern Saskatchewan continues into Manitoba & comprises the majority of its total area. This geographic consideration is relevant regarding my theory that people are more likely to go missing in the vicinity of lakes & rivers. Due to this huge prevalence of water bodies in Manitoba, I will not be counting a distinct dataset for those who did.

Another distinct feature of Manitoba is its capital city of Winnipeg in the far south of the province - the largest city both in area & in population

between Toronto & Calgary. It is also the only major city in Manitoba.

WHY DID THEY DISAPPEAR?

There are many missing persons cases where their fate can be assumed but not formally proven. This is most especially in the case of incidents on water bodies; there are several people in this dataset (more than in Saskatchewan, both in number & as a percentage of the total) who are presumed drowned, but not formally declared dead because no evidence of their body has ever been recovered. It is pretty safe to assume that a child who falls through thin ice on a lake or river will not reappear years later under another identity in Peru. There are also a small number of missing who are suspected to have been murdered, but again, not formally declared dead for the same lack of corporeal evidence.

Although I haven't arranged any cases into these categories specifically, reasons for disappearance aside from presumed drowned & presumed murdered include:

- life reset/assumed new identity (either forced or voluntary)
- disassociative fugue
- wild animal attack
- medical emergency experienced in isolation

I consider kidnapping to essentially fall under the category of presumed murdered, when it comes to missing persons. I discount the possibility of kidnapped persons who were never again found of neglecting to return to their families & deciding instead to join the French Foreign Legion, or escaping their kidnapper's clutches & subsequently being eaten by a bear.

THE DATA

The oldest missing person case on file in Manitoba, that of the case of Clifford McKell, is from 01958. Writing this in March 02025, I capped the results to December 02024.

In this sixty-six year span, 212 people in Manitoba are listed as still missing. (Not all were necessarily Manitoba residents.)

Continuing the trend from the Saskatchewan data, 162 of Manitoba's missing are men, to fifty women. Men comprise appr. 76% of Manitoba's missing. This is an even greater disparity than that in the Saskatchewan data, making a woman less than half as likely as a man to go missing in Manitoba (again, if the odds of going missing are not random).

One hundred of these 212 missing are Status Natives. Twenty-nine of these are females, for an appr. percentage of just under 14% of Manitoba's missing. This further provides evidence debunking the myth that Indigenous women & girls are disproportionately likely to go missing (although Natives do still comprise 47% of Manitoba's missing, it is, as with non-Natives, by far mostly men).

In order of most missing to fewest, the breakdown of the months in which these 139 went missing is as follows:

June: 33
September: 32
October: 26
November: 22
July: 22
August: 17

May: 17
April: 13
January: 10
March: 8
December: 7
February: 4

As with the Saskatchewan data, the spread between the months is remarkable. While in Saskatchewan June was the second-most likely month one would go missing, in Manitoba it is the most likely, followed closely by September. By this trend, in Manitoba, one is over eight times more likely to go missing in June than in February (in which only four of 212 - less than 2% - went missing).

In Saskatchewan, only forty out of 139 went missing in the province's two major cities of Regina & Saskatoon, for a total percentage of about 29%. This percentage was similar to Manitoba, in which seventy-two of 212 went missing in the sole major city of Winnipeg, for 34% of the total.

Other minor statistics:

- I noticed the surname "Flett" came up repeatedly in Manitoba's missing persons list - six times, when I counted. This means that nearly 3% of Manitoba's missing have the last name "Flett"
- at least seven had been hospital patients or were in assisted living when they went missing
- thirteen were despondent